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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| From the Chair<br>O'Neal Hamilton | 2 |
| In Brief<br>Charlie Terreni       | 2 |
| NARUC Involvement                 | 3 |
| Court Reporter Retires            | 3 |
| Contact Information               | 4 |

Patty Sands, *Editor*

*We're on the Web*  
[www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov)

# PSCnews

*Public Service Commission of South Carolina*

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## PSC Launches Electronic Tariff System

The screenshot shows the 'SC Public Service Commission - E Tariff System' web application in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The address bar shows 'http://etariff.psc.sc.gov/index.cfm?event=Home'. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links like Home, View Tariffs/Promotions, Search Tariffs, File Revision, File Promotion, My Profile, Logout, and Help. The main content area is titled 'HOME' and contains three tables: 'Recent Revisions', 'Recent Promotions', and 'Recently Added Tariffs'. Each table lists organizations, service names, dates, and statuses.

| Organization   | Service Name  | Insert Date/Time | Status   |
|--|---------------|------------------|----------|
| Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Long Distance | Long Distance | 3/1/07 10:03 AM  | Pending  |
| Embarq Communications, Inc.                                    | Long Distance | 2/27/07 3:18 PM  | Pending  |
| Charter Fiberlink SC - CCO, LLC                                | Local         | 2/27/07 1:13 PM  | Pending  |
| Sprint Communications Company, L.P.                            | Long Distance | 2/26/07 2:48 PM  | Pending  |
| NYNEX Long Distance Company d/b/a Verizon Enterprise Solutions | Long Distance | 2/22/07 10:42 AM | Approved |

  

| Organization   | Service Name | Effective Date | Expiration Date |
|--|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T South Carolina | Local        | 2/28/07        | 4/30/07         |

  

| Organization  | Service Name  | Insert Date/Time | Effective Date |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| ALEC, Inc.  | Local         | 2/28/07 10:57 AM | 12/18/02       |
| Qwest Communications Corporation                        | Local         | 2/27/07 12:30 PM | 3/9/07         |
| Windstream South Carolina, Inc.                         | Local         | 2/26/07 9:22 AM  | 7/17/06        |
| Metropolitan Telecommunications of South Carolina, Inc. | Long Distance | 2/23/07 4:12 PM  | 4/22/05        |
| Chesnee Telephone Company, Inc.                         | Private Line  | 2/23/07 3:07 PM  | 5/1/02         |

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina recently unveiled its newest website <http://etariff.psc.sc.gov>. This site allows users to view tariffs and promotions online. It also allows registered users to file revisions and promotions to their tariffs electronically. Initially, the system is launching with tariffs from the telecommunications industry, with other industry tariffs to be added later. The system can be accessed using the direct link or from the link on the Commission's home page [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov). In addition to the viewing and filing features of the system, it offers the capability to perform text string searches on tariffs, which gives consumers the ability to compare services among providers.

In anticipation of the launch, the Commission offered training classes for interested users. Two well attended sessions were held at the Commission's office in Columbia. Since many of the telecommunications organizations are located out of state, two sessions were held using internet conferencing software that allowed distance users to receive instructor led training as well.

Comments from users and filers have been positive and enthusiastic. There are 380 organizations in the database, with over 200 tariffs on file. With the implementation of this new system, the need for organizations to file paper copies of their revisions and promotions has been eliminated for both the Commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff.

## From the Chair...*O'Neal Hamilton*



As summer approaches, the Commission's upcoming hearing on net metering is drawing noticeable public attention. Generally speaking, net metering programs allow customers who generate their own electricity to transmit power to the electric utility's grid and receive compensation or credit for the generated energy.

Energy efficiency and alternative fuels are increasingly at the forefront of public policy arguments. Rising energy prices are forcing

legislatures and regulatory bodies alike to consider possibilities for promoting fuel efficiency and alternative energy sources. The Public Service Commission is no exception.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires state commissions to consider adopting standards to encourage better use of energy resources. The Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on whether to require the state's investor owned electric utilities to make "net metering" programs available to their customers, and if so, the terms on which these services should be made available.

More than one hundred individuals have submitted comments in the net metering proceeding, and eight parties -- the Office of Regulatory Staff, the state's three investor owned electric utilities, and five individuals -- will present testimony at the hearing which is scheduled for May 15, 2007, at the Commission's Office. We look forward to an informative exchange of ideas.

## Americans Worry About Energy Prices and Supply

The results of a recent public opinion poll show that most Americans are concerned about rising energy costs and recognize the need for new sources of energy supplies, but at the same time, they are not willing to sacrifice the environment to develop them. In a Gallup poll taken in March of 2007, 43% of respondents said that they worry about the availability and affordability of energy "a great deal", 34% worried a "fair amount", just 23% of respondents worried "only a little" or "not at all" (poll results available at [www.pollingreport.com](http://www.pollingreport.com).) These numbers show a considerable increase in concern about energy over the past three years. In March of 2004, only 27% worried about the availability and affordability of energy a great deal, 28% worried about it a fair amount, and it was a source of little or no concern to 36% of respondents.

However, most Americans are not willing to sacrifice environmental protection to ensure continued energy supply. When asked which should be given priority, development of U.S. energy supplies, such as oil, gas, and coal, or protection of the environment, 58% of respondents chose protection of the environment, while only 34% favored the development of energy supplies. The two issues, energy and the environment, are simultaneously gaining prominence in American public opinion. In March of 2004, when fewer people were concerned about the cost of energy, there was also less concern about the environment. At that time, 48% chose protection the environment, and 44% chose development of energy.

### In Brief...

By *Charlie Terreni*,  
Chief Clerk and  
Administrator



While 53% of the Gallup Poll's respondents said that America is likely to face a critical energy shortage during the next five years, they do not reflexively favor traditional solutions. When asked if the U.S. should emphasize production of oil, gas, and coal supplies over conservation of existing energy supplies, an overwhelming majority of 64% opted for conservation, with only 26% answering production. Three years ago, 59% chose conservation and 31% chose production.

Harry Truman once mused, "How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?" Polls give us a glimpse as to what is on people's minds, but it is ultimately up to lawmakers, the regulatory community, and industry to evaluate these concerns, determine their validity, and craft solutions.

## Commissioners Active at 2007 NARUC Winter Committee Meetings

The members of the Public Service Commission recently returned from Washington, D.C., where they attended the 2007 NARUC Winter Committee Meetings. Informative sessions featuring presentations and panel discussions by members of FERC, FCC, Homeland Security, the academic community, consumer advocates and industry provided a broad range of perspectives at the meetings. Commissioner Lib Fleming commented, "This was the most informative, substantive NARUC meeting I have attended. Having such balanced information helps to make better decisions with the issues facing this commission."

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, who serves as chair of the Washington Action Committee, did an exceptional job moderating a lively exchange between the audience and Stuart Rothenberg, publisher of the Rothenberg Political Report, who presented a high level overview of the past election cycle and the present political landscape.

Nuclear energy was the main focus of the meetings for Commissioner David Wright. Commissioner Wright, who serves as chairman of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, made a presentation to the staff subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal on the importance of continuing the positive dialogue and promoting the working relationship between NARUC and NWSC. In addition, NARUC President James Kerr of North Carolina announced the appointment of Commissioner Wright as the Vice-Chairman of the NARUC Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal.

Commissioner Butch Howard was welcomed as the incoming Co-Vice Chairman for the Committee on Water. He assumed his duties immediately by chairing the committee's meetings.



As a member of the Committee on Telecommunications, Commissioner Randy Mitchell was appointed by the committee chairman to be one of eight state regulators assigned to study special access competition issues. Commissioner Bob Moseley, also a telecommunications committee member, participated in committee meetings on telecommunications, electricity, gas, and water and stated, "By attending multiple committee meetings, I can keep track of the most pressing issues facing NARUC."

PSC Chairman O'Neal Hamilton, a member of the Committee on Gas, attended two days of in-depth discussions on the U.S. gas market. In addition, he and Commissioner Fleming attended the meetings for the Committee on Critical Infrastructure, where Commissioner Fleming serves as the Vice-Chair.

NARUC and the Department of Energy sponsored the 2007 National Electricity Delivery Forum, the final event of the conference. The Commissioners came away from the forum understanding that there is a lot of work to be done to meet consumer demand, maintain reliability, conform to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and protect our country's electrical delivery system.

## Court Reporter Retires After 29 Years of Service



The Public Service Commission's court reporter, MaryJane Cooper, recently retired after twenty-nine years of service. MaryJane saw many changes take place at the Commission over the years, the biggest was Act 175 of 2004 which restructured the agency into a quasi-judicial body and created the Office of Regulatory Staff. Many of

MaryJane's friends and coworkers from the Commission took jobs with the new agency.

In addition to seeing the Commission restructured three times, MaryJane had to change work locations three times as well. When MaryJane first came to work for the Commission in 1978, it was located downtown on Lady Street. A few years later, the Commission moved to Doctor's Circle off of Sunset Boulevard. The Commission has been at its present location in the Synergy Business Park since 1998.

Another big change that MaryJane experienced at the Commission was the advancement of technology. When MaryJane first started, she typed on an IBM Selectric® typewriter, then moved to a terminal connected to a mainframe. When Personal Computers came on the market in the early 1980s, MaryJane bought one for her home, but soon brought it to the Commission to use before the Commission purchased PC's for its office. To MaryJane, computers are a necessary part of life.

MaryJane enjoyed her job at the Commission, especially in the variety of duties that she performed. She was a court reporter, assisted with the IT Help Desk, and was the editor for many of the Commission's publications.

MaryJane has always enjoyed the challenge of learning and helping others. She plans to continue this trend by volunteering with animal rescue agencies and traveling to new places. But most of MaryJane's time will be spent with her family, especially her girls Bella and Valentina, two miniature dachshunds. MaryJane says that she has worked with some very wonderful people and will miss her extended family. We all wish her the best and hope she returns for an occasional visit.

## *Public Service Commission of South Carolina*

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INSIDE —→ E Tariff System — Net Metering — NARUC Winter Committee Meetings — AND MORE!

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ETariff System

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State of South Carolina website

[www.sc.gov](http://www.sc.gov)

Department of Environmental  
Health and Control (DHEC)

[www.dhec.sc.gov](http://www.dhec.sc.gov)

Department of Public Safety

[www.scdps.org](http://www.scdps.org)